

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Military Manpower

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 27 June 1955

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. Of the seven men that were inducted with [] two were sent to the Molotov Polyclinic to take a second, very detailed medical examination. One of them had eye trouble. [] did not know what happened to them after they were sent to Molotov immediately following their second appearance before the Karagay Voenkomat.

Assignments in Basic Training

4. [] about 200 recruits, most of them of the class of 1933, were sent out, supposedly to Austria according to the platoon sergeant. [] knew of no one going to Poland or remaining in the USSR. The five men who were inducted [] all went to East Germany []

TRAVEL AND ASSIGNMENT

Route to East Germany

5. [] left for East Germany after receiving [] basic training in the vicinity of Kamyshlov, Sverdlovsk Oblast. From Kamyshlov to East Germany [] traveled through the following Soviet cities: Chelyabinsk, Penza (N 53-12, E 45-01), and Brest (N 52-07, E 23-42). Final destination was Weimar, GDR. Travel was both day and night with occasional stops of several hours.

Traveling Conditions for Troops

6. The train [] comprised about 50 freight cars, some of which carried about 60 soldiers while other smaller cars carried only 30 to 40 soldiers. The personnel cars were equipped with two rows of either double- or triple-tiered wooden beds. One kitchen car was set up, while a second car was used to transport food supplies. The soldiers were fed three times a day. Twice a day they received dry rations while the train was moving, and once a day they received hot food. During the hot meals, the train was stopped.

Replacement Depots

7. [] went through one replacement depot (sortirovochnyy punkt) somewhere in the vicinity of Weimar towards the end of July 1952. His group of 2,000 to 2,500 recruits arrived there at about 0600 hours and left there again at 1400 or 1500 hours on the same day for the 93rd Separate Security Battalion. [] did not know whether other groups besides his own went through this center at the same time or arrived there later. The majority of the soldiers in [] group were from the class of 1933 but there were some from the classes of 1930 and 1931. One soldier, a gypsy, was from the class of 1928 or 1929.

SERVICE IN THE 93D SEPARATE SECURITY BATTALION

Arrival at Battalion

8. When [] arrived at the 4th Company, 93d Separate Security Battalion in Bockstadt (N 50-25, E 10-54) on [], he found out that about 60 other soldiers of the class of 1933 had arrived there about three days earlier. Towards the end of the year, [] heard that about 150 soldiers, most of them from the class of 1933, had arrived from the USSR in Meiningen (N 50-33, E 10-25) and had been assigned to the 4th Company of the battalion. []

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did not remember anyone arriving in his company or in any other unit in East Germany during 1953. In January or February 1954, however, about 10 soldiers of the class of 1934 were assigned to the 2d Company of [] battalion which was located in Schafhausen (N 50-34, E 10-10). In October 1954, about 150 members of the class of 1935 arrived from the USSR at the 93d Separate Security Battalion in Meiningen.

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Unit Strength

9. [] the 2d Company, 93d Separate Security Battalion, comprised about five officers, 13 NCOs, 35 PFCs, and 35 privates. During a training break an officer once stated that the 2d Company was not at full strength. The officer said that there were three possible strength levels for units, namely low, medium, and high, and that the 2d Company apparently was at the lowest of these three levels. [] also vaguely remembered that company officers either expected, forecast, or hoped for some reinforcements. []

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10. Out of 13 NCOs in his company, [] **one first** sergeant **sverkhsrochnik**, was of one class of 1930. Five soldiers were of the class of 1934 and seven were of the class of 1933. Out of these seven, four were PFCs, who [] were being trained in an NCO school in Meiningen. After completion of training they were to return and replace four sergeants who were demobilized in October 1954. Out of 70 PFCs and privates in his unit, about three were from the classes of 1930 through 1932 and about 12 were from the class of 1934. The rest were of the class of 1933.

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Demobilization Policies and Practices

11. [] about 20 soldiers of the class of 1930 [] were demobilized in 1953. [] also [] about 20 members of the classes of 1931 and 1932, [] were called up during different months of the same year, 1951, and assigned to [] the 93d Separate Security Battalion. This latter group was demobilized during the middle of October 1954. However, their officers did not use the term "demobilized" in their case but instead the term, "transferred into the reserves", an expression entirely new [] A soldier [] told a platoon leader, "I'll soon be demobilized". The officer corrected the soldier: "Not demobilized, but transferred into the reserve."
12. Of the 20 soldiers demobilized in 1953 (see paragraph 11) the first two departed for the USSR on 14 October 1954. They left earlier than the other 18 men because they had to go the farthest to their homes, namely to Siberia. [] some soldiers had been demobilized earlier because they had to return to the Arctic regions by means of dog or deer-drawn transport. Others left on 17 October 1954, and all EM of the group scheduled for demobilization were supposed to have left [] by 23 November 1954.
3. All soldiers [] who were members of the classes of 1931 and 1932 were returned to the USSR, with the exception of about three soldiers of the classes of 1930 through 1932 (see paragraph 10), who had been inducted later with members of the class of 1933 for reasons unknown []

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14. [] one recent change made by the Soviets regarding the administrative procedure of the mobilization and demobilization system. Formerly, a soldier did not have to return to the place from where he entered military service but could return to anywhere he wanted in the USSR upon demobilization by simply listing his preferred area as his permanent place of residence. For instance, a soldier about to be demobilized had to list his permanent place of residence to which he wanted to be returned. If he listed his village and then returned to the local rayon voyenkomat they refused to give him a passport and assigned him forcibly to a kolkhoz, because the rayon voyenkomat was always anxious to procure workers for the kolkhozes. Therefore, a soldier, who was about to be demobilized and who did not want to return to a local kolkhoz, listed his permanent place of residence as a city under the jurisdiction of a city or oblast voyenkomat, not in a village under the jurisdiction of a rayon voyenkomat. The city or regional voyenkomat would readily issue a passport to the soldier and allow him to work where he wished to

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[] a demobilized soldier of the class of either 1928 or 1929, returned to the rayon voyenkomat and was forced to work in the local kolkhoz although he did not want to. The second soldier, also of the class of 1928, knew what would happen if he went to the local rayon voyenkomat so he presented himself before the regional voyenkomat in Molotov where he received his passport and went to work in a factory located in Kozmodemyansk. Even if the kolkhoz manager found out about the latter case, he could not have had this man subsequently reassigned to his kolkhoz.

15. Sometime in 1954, the law or procedure regarding demobilization was changed and military units thereafter made sure that soldiers about to be demobilized went back to the same place from which they were inducted. For example, in October 1954, two soldiers []

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[] gave a false permanent residence, not wanting to return to where they were inducted from. These two soldiers left their unit to be returned to the USSR, supposedly to the place where they had asked to be returned. However, while being processed through Weimar, their papers were carefully examined and a discrepancy was noted between their place of induction and their requested place of demobilization. They were both returned to their unit and were told there that they would have to return to their original induction station. A week later they again departed for demobilization. The two soldier were not punished for having initially made an erroneous statement as to their real place of residence in the USSR.

16. This incident brought forth questions on the part of the soldiers []

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[] There were a few questions and answer periods, and officers from the battalion [] told the soldiers that they had to return to their true and original place of residence upon demobilization. An exception to this rule could only be made if the family of the soldier about to be demobilized had changed their permanent place of residence in the meantime. The soldier could then request that he be returned to his family's new place of residence.

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Replacement Procedures

- 7. [] replacements arrived usually before either officers or soldiers left the unit. In the case of officers, the battalion sent to the company a replacement for the officer about to depart approximately three days prior to such departure. In the case of several EM []

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[] replacements for these men were sent by the battalion about two weeks to one month prior to their leaving. However, when a single soldier was transferred out of his company, as was the case with a driver who was transferred out of the company for drunkenness [] the replacement arrived only about one month later. The arrival of replacements did not coincide with regular rotation periods.

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18. [] knew of no replacement pool except that in the case of his own battalion, the 4th Company constituted the replacement or reserve pool for three other companies stationed along the USSR-US zonal border.

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FORCED EXTENSIONS OF MILITARY SERVICE

19. [] in August or September [] six VNOS personnel attached [] 93d Separate Security Battalion, might have to serve four years instead of three as previously scheduled. [] also heard from drivers [] that their CO had told them that if they kept on getting drunk, they would be sent to mechanized units where they would have to serve four years instead of three.

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20. Transfers of Individuals for Physical or Other Reasons

- a. Sickness or Injuries - About one month after []

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three [] trainees were returned home to civilian life for physical disabilities. One of them had some kidney ailment. [] did not know what specific ailments the other two were suffering from, but he was certain that all three of them were sick. Two of them had thrown their civilian clothes away upon arrival at the basic training center and when they were rejected for physical reasons their uniforms were taken away from them. Although some of their comrades provided them with some clothes, they had to leave barefoot, since the generosity of their comrades did not go so far as to provide them with shoes. When [] was in the Erfurt hospital [] one private,

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a driver [] was sent home because of heart disease. Three others from unknown units were sent home from the hospital. Two of them had stomach trouble and the third had a growth on his neck. []

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[] one soldier of the 1st Co, 93d Separate Security Battalion, was demobilized for wounds received accidentally in his left arm. Ostensibly, this soldier was on border guard patrol with another soldier. Both stopped in a German gasthaus to have a few drinks, and somehow the second soldier's carbine was accidentally discharged and wounded the first soldier in the arm. The second soldier was sent to the guardhouse for a few days as a result.

- b. Political Unreliability - [] did not know the degree of political unreliability necessary to cause an officer or soldier to be returned to the USSR.

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- c. Civil Offenses - []

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[] one sergeant of the [] Rifle Regiment in Meiningen had killed a German policeman and was being sent home to the USSR. He had originally been sentenced to die before a firing squad, but the German policeman's family had interceded on his behalf. [] according to later rumors, the sergeant had subsequently been assigned to serve in Moscow in another army unit.

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- d. Disciplinary Reasons - Toward the end of 1952, one soldier in the [] Company was transferred to the [] Company of the same battalion because of drunkenness and because he was courting a German girl. In 1953, one PFC [] was transferred to the [] Rifle Regiment in Meiningen and another one was transferred to the Soviet Komendatura in Meiningen. Both of these transfers were because of drunkenness. A lieutenant leader []

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[] was transferred out of the company because of drunkenness. It was rumored that he was sent to the USSR, although he first was sent to battalion headquarters in Meiningen.

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- e. Permanent Changes of Station - One senior lieutenant, leader of the 1st Platoon in the same company, was transferred to the position of leader of the SMG Platoon attached to the 93d Separate Security Battalion Headquarters in Meiningen. One lieutenant colonel, the political officer of the same battalion, was transferred on PCS [] to another station, possibly in the USSR. [] did not know the reasons for this transfer. On 15 November 1954 four PFCs [] were sent to the NCO school in Meiningen (as previously indicated). [] knew of no other cases of soldiers being returned to the USSR. []

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Reserve Matters

21. Assignment to the reserve (see paragraph 11) was automatic, but [] had no information on the existence of specific reserve units as such or the length of time a soldier had to remain in the reserve. It was rumored that privates in the reserve did not have to train. However, officers [] told sergeants about to be demobilized, that they would not be recalled for active duty training the first year after being demobilized but that they would be recalled to train for two or three months after the second year. [] did not know if there was any procedure for recalling individual reservists or reserve units nor did he know such units existed.

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- a. Length of Service for Officers - [] company officers [] had to serve 25 years. However, [] also once overheard a conversation between [] officers in which they mentioned the possibility of leaving the military service before the expirations of the 25-year period in order to serve as manager of a kolkhos or in a similar capacity. He had no further information on this specific point.

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- b. Recall of Reserve Officers to Active Duty - [] observed a group of about 40 men, from 35 to 40 years old, some of whom were dressed in civilian clothes and others dressed in soldiers' uniforms without shoulder boards. []

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[] they were reserve officers holding ranks from lieutenant through colonel who were taking refresher military training. During a break in basic training []

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The reserve officers jokingly told [] that they [] were taking basic training, i.e., the young soldier's course (kurs molodogo boyetsa). []

these reserve officers were recalled during each summer for a period of about three to four months training. []

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UTILIZATION OF WOMEN IN THE SOVIET ARMY

23. [redacted] Soviet female army personnel. Some wore uniforms, while others did not. [redacted] most of those in uniform were enlisted signal corps shoulder boards, i.e., black shoulder boards with light blue piping and metallic signal corps emblem. [redacted] did not know what their duties were, beyond the fact that they were connected in some way with the hospital. 25X1
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24. Other women were nurses and assistants in the hospital. They usually wore white nurse's uniforms although one female lieutenant or senior lieutenant wore the uniform with medical service shoulder boards and emblem. She assisted at operations. [redacted] did not know what specific unit any of these women were assigned to. [redacted] they participated in some sort of military training two to three times a week, and he had heard that [redacted] 25X1
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25. [redacted] the enlisted women received either 300 or 600 East marks a month, i.e., much more than Soviet male enlisted personnel. For example, [redacted] only received 30 East marks a month. Soldiers disliked female military personnel because of this; they claimed that they did no work but received high pay. 25X1
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26. [redacted] did not know whether the above-mentioned female military personnel had volunteered or had been inducted. However, he believed females were inducted through voyenkomaty during the immediate post-war period in the same manner as males. He also believed that the women also served for three-year periods. 25X1

MILITARY EDUCATION IN CIVILIAN SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS

Schools

27. [redacted] compulsory military training existed in civilian schools or college level but was not certain of it. [redacted] 25X1
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28. [redacted]

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Other Training for Civilians

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LABOR SERVICE

30.

[redacted] young men might be sent to [redacted] labor battalions (rabochyye batalony) instead of to army units because their fathers had been kulaks or were considered politically unreliable because they had been in prison, or because they were physically unfit for general military service. [redacted] the voyenkomat was responsible for securing labor service personnel.

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DRAFT EXEMPTIONS

31.

[redacted] whether or not graduates of factory work schools (FZO) were called into military service depended largely on the type of work they were doing. For example, [redacted] a graduate of an unidentified factory work school [redacted] was called into military service.

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[redacted] On the other hand, [redacted] a man in [redacted] had finished a factory work school and [redacted] was working in an unidentified factory engaged in some sort of military production. This man, who was in the military class of 1926, earned good wages, had easy work conditions, and was exempt from military service.

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